

★ news release

Most - 343-5634

Development plans call for using most of the presently irrigated farmlands to produce green browse and other foods for waterfowl. On the Las Vegas Division, additional small impoundments will be constructed to improve the area for waterfowl nesting and wintering use. Existing ponds and reservoirs on both Divisions will be managed where possible for the production of aquatic food plants for ducks and geese.

The newly authorized Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge in Texas is a natural waterfowl area of high value to ducks and geese. It is part of the important waterfowl wintering habitat for the Central Flyway and has a history of heavy waterfowl use.

The refuge area consists of low-lying marshes dotted with small brackish lakes. It is adjacent to shallow bays that annually attract large numbers of ducks and geese. The relatively rare mottled duck, a year-round resident of the Gulf Coast, nests in the refuge area.

The Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge is being established with the purchase of a key tract of 6,367 acres. The eventual size of the refuge is expected to be about 12,000 acres.

The amount approved by the Commission for acquiring the refuge lands totaled \$2.7 million. Funds for the purchase of waterfowl refuge lands come from the sale of Federal "Duck Stamps" to waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and stamp collectors.

In addition to Secretary Udall, members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission are Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor, United States Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska, United States Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, United States Representative Frank M. Karsten of Missouri, and United States Representative Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts.

Ex officio members of the Commission on August 24, representing States where new refuges or additions were authorized, were: William S. Huey, Chief of the Division of Special Services for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and A. J. Springs, Staff Services Officer for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.

X X X